(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the costs to be incurred on purchase of the said planes and ship;

(d) whether Britain is going to withdraw its ship 'Invincible' in 2006 from its fleet: and

(e) if so, the reasons for purchasing this ship of such an obsolete technology?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Alternative medicines for treatment of high altitude ailments of soldiers

764. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences is at present using systems of alternative medicine like Homoeopathy and Ayurveda for treating soldiers suffering from high altitude injuries like frost bite; and

(b) if so, since when this system has been in use and the number of patients treated during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No system of alternate medicines like Homoeopathy or Ayurveda is in practice to treat soldiers for frost bite.

(b) Does not arise.

Efficacy of Yoga and Herbal medicines for staying fit at higher altitude

765. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Yoga and Herbal medicines have been found to help in starting fit at higher altitude;

(b) if so, whether Defence authorities have held trials of these medicines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?